Saturday
February 6, 2010
At Mass
Ss. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Year II, Week 4

Compilation, layout and chant arrangements of the Proper of the Mass by
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6 February 2010
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
St. Paul Miki and Companions  
(d. 1597)

Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to Americans as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, killing hundreds of thousands. Three and a half centuries before, 26 martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Among them were priests, brothers and laymen, Franciscans, Jesuits and members of the Secular Franciscan Order; there were catechists, doctors, simple artisans and servants, old men and innocent children—all united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.

Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among the martyrs of Japan. While hanging upon a cross Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: “The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ’s example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain.”

When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860’s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith. Beatified in 1627, the martyrs of Japan were finally canonized in 1862.

Seminarian Paul Miki

The persecution began in 1596. Among the victims was Paul Miki, a seminarian who had just completed eleven years of training. Paul’s noble family was converted when he was a child and at age five he was baptized. He welcomed the chance at martyrdom, but may have wished just a little that it would be delayed long enough for him to be ordained a priest.

Emperor Hideyoshi had the left ears of the twenty-six martyrs severed as a sign of disrespect and paraded them through Kyoto. Dressed in his simple black cassock, Paul stood out among them. Most onlookers realized that this noble young man could have worn the samurai’s costume with two swords on his belt. The whole display had the unexpected effect of evoking compassion from the crowd, some of whom later became converts.

The martyrs were then taken to Nagasaki. They were tied to crosses with their necks held in place by iron rings. Beside each was an executioner with his spear ready to strike. An eyewitness gave this account:

The faces of them all shone with great gladness. Another Christian shouted to him that he would soon be in paradise. “Like my Master,” murmured Paul, “I shall die upon the cross. Like him, a lance will pierce my heart so that my blood and my love can flow out upon the land and sanctify it to his name.”

As they awaited death the entire group sang the Benedictus and the Psalms: Praise the Lord, ye children: praise ye the Name of the Lord (Ps 112). The executioners stood by respectfully until they had intoned the last verse. Then at a given signal they thrust their spears into the victims’ sides. On that day, February 5, 1597, the church of Japan welcomed its first martyrs.
Feasts of February

10

Antiphon in Honor of the B. V. M.

__Feast of February 6__

**Ss. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**

**Introit**

Gaudent in caelis

**Psalm 115**

1. Y vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of all his people. *Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. Ant.

2. O you will I offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,* and I will call on the Lord’s Name. Ant.
Feasts of February.  6

Kyrie

Y- ri- e e- lé- i- son.  ij. Christe e- lé- i-

VIII

ORD, teach me your statutes.

Responsorial Psalm

Year II, Week 4

Psalm 118:9-10. 11-12. 13-14

How shall a young man be faultless | in his way?
By keeping | to your words.
With all my | heart I seek you;
let me not stray from | your com-mands.  (R)

Within my heart I treas- | ure your prom-ise,
that I may not | sin a-gainst you.
Blessed are | you, O Lord,
teach | me your stat-utes.  (R)

With my lips | I de-clare
all the ordinances | of your mouth.
In the way of your decrees | I re-joice,
as much as | in all rich-es.  (R)

After Communion

Antiphon

Ve- re passum, immo- lá- tum in cru-ce pro hómi-ne :  Cu- jus
la-tus perfo-rá- tum flu-xit aqua et sánqui- ne :  Es-to
no-bis pregustá- tum mortis in ex-ámi- ne.  O Je- su

胸前的圣体，真的诞生，
温良的处女的温和,
真的奉献，被撕裂并被剥皮，
在十字架上为尘世的罪人，
从那受痛爱的神圣的侧
流出你拯救的真血:
先是一滴甜美的前奏给我
在我死亡的极大痛苦中，
你这位慈爱的、温柔的
甜美的耶稣，马利亚的儿子。

When the Master said, "I shall die upon the cross.
Like him, a lance will pierce my heart so that my blood and my
love can flow out upon the land and sanctify it to his name."
Feast of February.

Communion

Ake up your cross and follow me: mine is the way to life.

Psalm 33

When the just cry out the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them. Ant.

He Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and those who are crushed in spirit he saves. Ant.

Any are the troubles of the just man, but out of them all the Lord delivers him. Ant.

Offertory

Ome, blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Psalm 112

Raise, you servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord both now and forever. Ant.